

17. (NEW) The optical reproducing and recording apparatus of claim 16, wherein the different stiffness of the elastic supports is provided by the at least one of the elastic supports having a different thickness with respect to the at least another one of the elastic supports

18. (NEW) The optical reproducing and recording apparatus of claim 15, wherein the different stiffness of the elastic supports is provided by the at least one of the elastic supports having a different thickness with respect to the at least another one of the elastic supports.

**REMARKS**

A Preliminary Amendment has been made to the specification at page 6, paragraph 24. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new matter since support for this Preliminary Amendment is provided in FIG. 8 of the originally filed application.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 6, paragraph [0024], please add the following sentence at the end:

--The different amount of stiffness of the supports 271 and 272 can be generated in different ways, for example, by providing the elastic supports 271 and 272 of different thicknesses (see FIG. 8, where the supports 272 are illustrated as being thicker than the support 271). It is to be noted that varying the stiffness of the supports by providing different thicknesses is for illustration purposes only, and is not limited thereto.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please ADD the following claims:

17. (NEW) The optical reproducing and recording apparatus of claim 16, wherein the different stiffness of the elastic supports is provided by the at least one of the elastic supports having a different thickness with respect to the at least another one of the elastic supports.

18. (NEW) The optical reproducing and recording apparatus of claim 15, wherein the different stiffness of the elastic supports is provided by the at least one of the elastic supports having a different thickness with respect to the at least another one of the elastic supports.